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The Humble
REPRESENTATIONS,
OR
ADDRESSES,

England Of the Right Honourable the
Lords Spiritual and Temporal

In Parliament Assembled,
PRESENTED TO
HER MAJESTY

On Friday the Thirty first Day of March, 1704.

Math. Johnson
Clerk. Parliament

AND

Her Majesties

MOST GRACIOUS

ANSWER

THEREUNTO.

LONDON,

Printed by Charles Bill, and the Executrix of Thomas
Newcomb, deceas'd; Printers to the Queens most
Excellent Majesty. 1704.

The Humble
REPRESENTATIONS
OR
ADDRESSES

Of the Right Honourable the

Die Veneris, 31 Martii, 1704.

It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled, That the Representations and Addresses laid before Her Majesty, Relating to Abuses in Victualling the Navy, Vice-Admiral Graydon, Expedition into the Mediterranean, and Exchange of Prisoners, and Her Majesties most Gracious Answer thereunto, shall be forthwith Printed and Published.

Math. Johnson,
Clerk Parliamentor



Die Mercurii, 29 Martii, 1704.

WE Your Majesties most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled, most humbly lay before Your Majesty, That we have taken into Consideration a Complaint made by *Charles Hoar*, *Richard Hoar*, and *James Hoar*, of great Abuses in the Victualling Your Majesties Navy, which if not performed with the Strictest Care and Honesty, must be of the most Mischievous Consequence to the Lives of many Thousands of the Seamen of this Kingdom. We Entred into a full and particular Examination of the said Complaint, as followeth :

And it appeared to us, That a Petition was presented by *Charles Hoar* to the Council of His Royal Highness Prince *George of Denmark*, Lord High Admiral of *England*, on the Third of *February*, 1703. Complaining of great Abuses and Frauds committed in the Victualling of Her Majesties Navy, and Representing, That without a speedy and strict Inspection, it would be impossible to Detect those Abuses, or Prevent the Dangerous Effects thereof, and therefore Praying that His Royal Highness will Please to Order an immediate Survey of the Provisions for the Fleet, to be made by proper and fitting Persons, who have no Dependance on the Navy or Victualling-Office, and make Report to His Royal Highness of the State of the Victualling, and that the Petitioner may have His Royal Highnesses Protection for His Witnesses till Heard ; A List of whose Names he is ready to Deliver, they being daily Threatned to be Prest into the Service, in Order to Stifle this Complaint.

Upon the Eighth of *February* several of Mr. *Hoar's* Witnesses, on his Petition, were Protected by the Prince from being Pressed.

Upon which Petition, His Royal Highness gave an Order on the Ninth of *February*, 1703, to Sir *Cloudefley Shovell*, and Sir *Richard Haddock*, Requiring them forthwith to Survey the Provisions complain'd of, in which they should be Attended by Mr. *Hoar*, or others he should bring : His Royal Highness also gave an Order to the Lord Marquess of *Carmarthen*, on the Eleventh of *February* following, to Assist Sir *Cloudefley Shovell*, and Sir *Richard Haddock*, in taking the aforefaid Survey.

That the Prince's Council was sensible of the Necessity of an immediate Survey, appears not only from the Tenor of the Prince's Order, but also by their Ordering their Solicitor to Attend a Justice of Peace in taking the Affidavits of Twenty Evidences for the Queen, of which Justice *Rider* Swore and Examined Seven, on the Tenth and Eleventh of *February*, 1703.

And yet that the Prince's Council knew this Order was not put in Execution is Evident, by several Letters that pass'd between Mr. *Hoar* and Mr. *Burchet*, Secretary to the Admiralty, Mr. *Hoar* insisting, That the Persons he had desired to be present would not Attend at the Survey, unless they were impowered by the Admiralty, and Mr. *Burchet* acquainting Mr. *Hoar*, that such a Power was not judged either reasonable or proper to be granted.

But on the 26th of *February* following, His Royal Highness gave another more Express and Peremptory Order to Sir *Cloudefley Shovell* and Sir *Richard Haddock*, requiring them to Survey the Provisions complain'd of within Four Days, tho' Mr. *Hoar*, or any other, should not Attend them.

Which Order likewise the Prince's Council knew was not Executed, as appears by a New Order of the 19th of *April* following, Directed to the Navy-Board, requiring them to Report, which of the Members of *Trinity-House* were fittest to be Employed in Conjunction with my Lord *Carmarthen*, and others, to Survey the Provisions.

And on the 23d of *April* there was another Order directed to the Lord *Carmarthen*, &c. to take a strict Survey of the Provisions complain'd of, which Order the Prince's Council knew also was not Executed.

For on the 30th of the same *April* they granted the last and most peremptory Order to the Lord *Carmarthen*, and others, requiring them to take a strict Survey of the Provisions complain'd of, without Mr. *Hoar*, if he still should refuse to attend the same, upon which a Survey was accordingly taken in a few Days after.

So that from the Date of the first Order, to the Date of the last and peremptory Order, there was near Three Months.

Upon the whole, we are of Opinion, That the Prince's Council, in not commanding an immediate and strict Survey of Her Majesties Provisions for the Fleet, upon such a Complaint, according to His Royal Highnesses Order of the 9th of *February*, 1703. but suffering a known Delay thereof till the 30th of *April* following, gave not only too great Discountenance to a Complaint of that Nature and Consequence, but also near Three Months Opportunity, for removing what tainted and stinking Provisions there might be then in the Store-houses, or so changing the State thereof, that the Frauds and Abuses complain'd of might thereby very easily be covered.

Upon this whole Matter, we humbly lay before Your Majesty, That the due Performance of this Service is of that Consequence, that the Discovery of any Miscarriages in the Management of it ought by all means to be Encouraged : And we are humbly of Opinion, That the Pains and Charge that the said *Charles, Richard* and *James Hoar* were at in discovering the said Abuses, and desiring a Survey to be taken to justify their Complaints, was such a Service to the Publick, as deserves a Reward and Recompence suitable to the Charge and Trouble they have been at, and Service they have done the Publick.

WE do also most humbly lay before Your Majesty, That we have taken into Consideration the Conduct of Vice-Admiral *Graydon*, in not Attacking four *French* Men of War, which he met in his Passage to the *West-Indies*, having at that time Four of Your Majesties Men of War under his Command : As likewise several Complaints from the Merchants trading to *Jamaica*, for his disorderly Proceeding in Pressing in the Night-time great Numbers of Seamen, and Inhabitants of *Jamaica*, and for his severe Usage of the Masters of some Merchant-Ships and Transport-Vessels under his Convoy, to the great Disturbance of the Inhabitants of the said Island, to the Frightning away many of the Seamen, and consequently the Weakening and Exposing that Country to great and manifest Dangers, and to the Interruption and Discouragement of Trade.

Which said Complaints have been Inquired into, and after Examination upon Oath of several of the said Complainants, as also after Hearing Vice-Admiral *Graydon* both by himself, and Witnesses ; We have judged it proper to come to the following Resolutions, viz.

Resolved, " That Vice-Admiral *Graydon*, with a Squadron of Four Ships of War of Her Majesties under his Command, meeting with Four *French* Ships in his Passage to the *West-Indies*, and letting them Escape without Attacking them according to his Duty, from the pretence of his Instruction, hath been a Prejudice to the Queens Service, and a great Dishonour to the Nation.

Resolved, " That Vice-Admiral *Graydon*'s disorderly Proceeding in Pressing Men at *Jamaica*, and his severe Usage of the Masters of Merchant and Transport-Vessels under his Convoy there, hath been a great Discouragement to the Inhabitants of that Island, and Prejudicial to Her Majesties Service.

Resolved, " That Vice-Admiral *Graydon* having behaved himself so ill in his Expedition to the *West-Indies*, is not fit to be Employ'd any more in Her Majesties Service.

And in Consequence of these Resolutions, we most humbly beseech Your Majesty, That the said Vice-Admiral *Graydon*, having behaved himself so ill in his Expedition to the *West-Indies*, may not be Employed any more in Your Majesties Service.

We likewise lay before Your Majesty, That whilst these Matters were under our Examination, it appeared, That in this Expedition to the *West-Indies*, before the Fleet arrived in those parts, the Design they were going about in *Newfoundland* was generally talk'd of amongst the Seamen ; and that the Men on Board two Transport-Ships that were separated from the Fleet, and went to the *Madera's*, spoke commonly of their going to *Placentia* : And Vice-Admiral *Graydon* informed, That before he received his Instructions, he was himself frequently told that he was going to *Newfoundland*.

The Effect of which Discovery, we humbly observe to Your Majesty, proved so Fatal to that Design, and was so Unluckily made use of by the Enemy in their better Defence, that when the Fleet came there, they found all Preparations so sufficiently made for the Security of the Place, that that Attempt was rendred ineffectual ; which otherwise in great probability would have done considerable Damage to the *French*, and must have been attended with great Advantage to the Service of Your Majesty and this Kingdom.

We farther think it our Duty to Represent to Your Majesty, of what Importance the Defence and Preservation of *Jamaica* is to *England* it self by its Situation, as well for Trade, as by the Convenience it affords of Offending Your Majesties present Enemies the

French

French and *Spaniards*, as it lies in the Center of the most Valuable part of the *West-Indies*, at an easie Distance from the *Spanish* Settlements, and more particularly, is in the Neighbourhood of the *Havana*, which hath been hitherto the Rendezvous of the *Spanish* Gallies and Flota's.

This Island produces the best Sugar, Indico, Cotton-Wool, Dying-Wood, &c. and may be yet made more Beneficial to *England*, by being a Staple of our *European* Product and Manufactures, and a Mart for *Negrees* upon a Peace or Friendship with the *Spaniards*, which Advantage is Enjoyed now by the *French*, who do not only furnish the *Spaniards* with all their *Negroes* for Working in their Mines, but almost entirely supply them with all Necessaries from *Europe*, for which they are paid in Pieces of Eight, or other the richest Commodities; which Benefit might Accrue to this Kingdom, in case of a Revolution in *Spain*, but cannot be maintained without the Island of *Jamaica*, there being no other of Your Majesties Plantations situated so far to the Leeward, and so near to the *Spaniards*, as to afford a convenient Communication with them, and a Means of Protecting them at the same time against the *French*.

This Island also affords good Reception for great Numbers of Your Majesties Men of War, who may be there in a Readiness to Defend this Important Place, and to Annoy the Enemy on all Hands, who have only some open Roads and Harbours, of no great Defence to their Shipping.

With the Loss of this Island, besides its Natural Product, this Kingdom would also lose the whole Advantage of so Beneficial a Trade as that of the *Spanish West-Indies*, which would fall to the *French* and *Dutch*, who have their Settlements in those Parts.

Having thus laid before Your Majesty the great Advantages of this Island, We must crave Leave to observe, That in this place of so great Concernment and Importance to the Trade and Prosperity of this Kingdom, there has been no Chief-Governour since the Death of Colonel *Brewer*, during this War, till within a few Weeks, which we are of Opinion may have been the Occasion of losing several Opportunities of taking Advantages upon the Enemy, as well as of lessening the Discipline amongst the Soldiers. The Authority and Prudence of a Chief-Governour always drawing more Respect, Obedience and Dependence upon him, than is usually observed towards any Officer in an Inferior Command.

We have also received Informations from many of the considerable Merchants in this City, Trading to *Jamaica*, of several *French* Men of War to a considerable Number fitted out, and many Transport-Ships with Soldiers on board them bound for the *West-Indies*, which the said Merchants conceive they have good Ground to believe are design'd to Attack *Jamaica*, their Correspondents in that Place signifying to them, That the Prisoners from all Parts agree in their Reports, that the Governours in the *French* and *Spanish* Dominions in the *West-Indies*, design to make a powerful Descent on that Island, which at this time is extremely Exposed, for want of Soldiers and Ships of War to protect it.

Whereupon, after due and mature Consideration of the Great and Eminent Advantages of this Island, in respect of its Neighbourhood to the *Spanish* Settlements, which must always be of the greatest Importance to this Kingdom, whether in time of War or Peace, as also of the Natural Product of that Place so highly valuable to Your Majesties Subjects here, and how Irreparable the Loss of such a Place, would be, if by any Accident such a Fatal Miscarriage might happen, we find our selves under the highest Obligation of Duty to Your Majesty and the Kingdom, to make this our humble Address to Your Majesty, That You will be pleas'd to take Care, that so Advantageous a Plantation may be Effectually and Seasonably supplied with all things proper for its Security and Defence, and particularly that the Regiments there may be recruited and kept full; That Instructions be given to the Commanders of Your Majesties Ships that Attend on this Plantation, to observe strict Discipline and Order in the Pressing such Seamen, as are absolutely necessary for the use of the Men of War only; Want of due Care in that Service having extremely weaken'd this Island by the Loss of many of their Seamen, frightening away more, and hindring others from Resorting thither; And that such a Number of Ships of War may be constantly maintained there, or Relieved from time to time, That there may not want a sufficient Strength at Sea to defend Your Majesties Own Subjects, and Annoy Your Enemies in those Parts, which will likewise prove of very considerable Advantage to Your Majesties Service in all Your other Dominions.

THE Expedition into the *Mediterranean* last Summer, under the Command of Sir *Cloudesley Shovell*, had raised so great an Expectation in the World, and concluded with so little Advantage to the Undertaking, that we thought it our Duty to Enquire into the particular Execution of it, and having seen the Instructions given on that Occasion, and observed the time the Fleet Sailed from hence, we most humbly Offer it to Your Majesty,

That it is our Opinion, That the time the Fleet Sailed from *England*, being about the middle of *July*, under the Order Sir *Cloudesley Shovell* had to Return out of the *Streights* within the Month of *September*, made it impossible to Execute the Main Services that appeared before the Committee were required to be performed by his Instructions.

And we do humbly Address to Your Majesty, That when-ever there shall be a Necessity of sending a Fleet into the *Mediterranean*, the Coast and Trade here may not be left so Naked and Unguarded as it was the last Year.

WE have Judged it Necessary to Represent at one time these several Matters to Your Majesty, relating all to the Maritime Affairs, hoping that it will be approved in Your Own Royal Judgment, that a Distinguishing Care may be had of that part of the Administration, that the Glory of the *English* Nation so Renowned in all times at Sea, may be Preserved in its Highest Reputation, during Your Majesties Happy Reign; and that the Naval Strength of this Kingdom, in which Your Subjects have a singular Satisfaction, as well as a Security, may be Maintained and Improved by all proper means, especially by the Encouraging of the Seamen, and Observing the Ancient Strict Discipline of the Navy, to the Immortal Honour of Your Majesties Government in the Defence of Your Own Kingdoms, and the most Effectual Restraining the Power of Your Enemies.

WE likewise Represent to Your Majesty the Complaints laid before us from several Masters of Merchant-Vessels, in relation to their having been taken Prisoners by the *French*, with many other Seamen, and Detained there a long time, under very hard Usage; into which Matter having Inquired with all due Care and Consideration, we humbly lay it before Your Majesty, beseeching You to give such Orders for the better Management of the Commission for the Exchange of Prisoners, as Your Majesty shall Judge most fit.

TH A T we have been Informed on the Oaths of several Persons, who have lately been Prisoners in *France*, and who, some of them, Purchased their Liberty at great Rates, that several *English* Prisoners there, thro' long Imprisonment, and the Hardships they underwent therein, put themselves into the *French* Kings Service, and into *French* Privateers, alledging they would rather do so, than dye in Prison; and some others had likewise done so, had they not been furnished with Money by one of the Informants, who, in near Three Months, he was Prisoner at *Dinant*, believes there died there more than Sixty Prisoners; And by another of them, that he had an Account, That near Three hundred died there in Four Months, between the Return of the Transport-Vessels; And by another of them, That in *August* last, when he was Prisoner at *Martinico*, there were between Seventy and Eighty Ships belonging to Her Majesties Subjects that had been taken by the *French*, and about Two hundred Prisoners.

We have likewise heard the Commissioners for Exchange of Prisoners, who said, They never had any Complaint made to them by any Prisoner, after his Return, of bad Usage in *France*, nor did they ever hear that any of them gave Money for his Ransom, but upon Notice given by one of their Agents (who had frequent Orders to Enquire into the Usage of Prisoners) that the *French* did not make sufficient Allowance to their Prisoners, the said Commissioners reduced the Allowance to the *French* Prisoners, from Five Pence to three Pence *per Diem*, till they were certified from the Prisoners there, that they had their Allowance raised to what it had been here: That they constantly once in three Weeks, after the Return of a Vessel sent for Prisoners, sent another on the same Errand, except after the great Storm in *November* last, which, with the Privy of a Principal Secretary of State, they forbore to do just at that time, lest Intelligence should be thereby

carried of our great Losses in Men and Shipping. They produced the Instructions they gave to, and the Securities they took of the Masters of the Transports, they imploy'd to provide good Vessels, and sufficient Entertainment Aboard, for the *French* and *English* Prisoners, without demanding any thing of them for the same: And their usual Course in the Exchange of Prisoners, was to return Man for Man, and Quality for Quality, and to bring home first the Sick, Wounded and Aged, who could least endure the Hardships of Imprisonment; then, those that had been longest Prisoners; in the next place, those that had been taken in Her Majesties Ships, and after them, those taken in Merchant-Men; and in the last place the Men taken in Privateers. At the time of this Examination they said, there were few more than Two hundred of the *English* Prisoners in *France*, who were then sent for, and that there were now more than two thousand *French* Prisoners in *England*. They laid their Commission before us, which is from His Royal Highness Prince George of Denmark, Lord High-Admiral of *England*, together with the Instructions given them by His Royal Highness, for their better Government and Conduct in the Execution of the Trust committed to them. And they acquainted us, That upon any Accident that might require farther or more particular Direction, their Course was to make Application to the Cabinet-Council, and the Earl of Nottingham Principal Secretary of State.

It appeared to us, That by the Neglect of the Duty of some of the Masters of the Transport-Vessels, and particularly of one *Gibson*, and contrary to Bonds given, Not to bring over any Passengers but Prisoners, several Persons have been brought over in the said Transport-Vessels out of *France*, who have been found, by the Examination of a Committee of the Lords of this House, to have been concerned and trusted in the Management of the *Scotch* Conspiracy.

Her MAJESTIES most Gracious Answer to the Representations or Addreffes.

My LORDS,

T*His Address consists of so many Parts, that I cannot take Notice of them now, but in General.*

I will Consider the several Particulars, and give such Directions as shall be Proper for the Safety and Welfare of the Nation.

F I N I S.

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Her MAJESTIES most Gracious Answer to the
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My Lords,
 His Address consists of so many Parts, that I cannot take
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